



JULY 2010

Free Wheeling



Lunch at the Pinnacles - by Anthony - 13 June 2010

Notice Board



VFWDC GENERAL MEETING VENUE

The club meets at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club, 46-56 Moodemere St., Noble Park on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm (No meeting January). Members and Guests are welcome to dine at the Bistro before attending the meeting.

First **WEDNESDAY** of each month 8.00PM Start

Venue:

Bowling Club Rooms (Next to Car Park)

Noble Park Football Club
46-56 Moodemere Street
Noble Park
Melways ref: 89 D4



FREE WHEELING

Hello and welcome to the July newsletter. We have one trip report from a well frozen high country. Please note the Dinner coming up soon.

As always, I'm after any interesting content for the newsletter, so feel free to email me at editor@vfwdc.com.

Cheers,

Shane Michelin



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2009-2010

President	Ashley Martin	president@vfwdc.com 0438 600 904
Vice President	Mark Kochan	vicepres@vfwdc.com 0412 544 668
Treasurer	Phil Griffith	treasurer@vfwdc.com 0419 865 472
Secretary	Paul Ryan	secretary@vfwdc.com 0438 121 148

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Assistant Secretary	Bruce Cremonesi	assist@vfwdc.com
Trip Co-ordinator	Daniel Robinson	trips@vfwdc.com
Newsletter Editor	Shane Michelson	editor@vfwdc.com
Association Delegate	John Partridge	
Training Officers	Ashley Martin	John Partridge
	Michael Rodger	Mark Kochan
New Member Contact	George Pledger	
Web Manager	Paul Ryan	web@vfwdc.com

Club Details

Registered Name	Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club Inc
Registration No	A002184F
Correspondence	PO Box 778 Dandenong Vic 3174
Email	secretary@vfwdc.com
Website	www.vfwdc.com
Meetings	Held 8pm, first Wednesday of each month, excluding January (no meeting).
Location	Noble Park Football Club (Bowling club near car park) 46-56 Moodemere Street Noble Park Melways ref: 89 D4
Newsletter	All articles and photographs to be submitted prior to 20 th of each month to editor@vfwdc.com
Front Cover	
	The Victorian Four Wheel Drive Club is an affiliated club of the Victoria Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc (VAFWDC)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and welcome to this month's edition of *Free Wheeling*.

At the June meeting there was some discussion regarding public liability insurance. I would like to clarify the Club's position. After recently receiving our renewal details from FWD Victoria it was outlined that non visitors attending trips would have to pay \$10 for full public liability coverage. This would include family members as well as friends. This differs from previous years and would place a burden on trip leaders to ensure the \$10 is collected and forwarded to FWD Vic. The Committee strongly disagrees with this policy and investigated alternative insurance coverage. I am pleased to advise we have sourced a policy that provides the same detailed coverage and includes visitors without the extra charge. It is unfortunate that FWD Vic cannot seek the same coverage for all associated Clubs.

Also at the June meeting we advised that members with 25 years of continual service will be eligible for honorary membership. This was raised by Bill Harwood after being discussed many years ago but not acted upon. After lengthy discussion, the Committee decided that honorary membership would be introduced but before doing so the Constitution needs to be updated. At present the Constitution does not outline what represents an honorary member and this needs to be ratified for the benefit of all members. Any variations to the Constitution will require an EAGM with two-thirds of the members present to approve. We are currently working on this, but unfortunately details will not be finalised for this year's AGM. Once completed members will be advised and a date set for an EAGM.

Along with many other organizations, we are trying to reduce our impact on the environment. Accordingly, the Committee has decided to amend the way the newsletter is circulated. To assist with reducing the amount of paper and printer consumables used, newsletters will only be mailed to members who do not have internet access. These members will now receive a hard copy of the newsletter free of charge. Any member who provides an email address is presumed to have internet access and therefore will not receive a hard copy of the newsletter. If you currently receive the newsletter by mail and have internet access, please do the right thing and ensure your name is removed from the mailing list. We currently mail a number of newsletters to other Clubs, but in future these clubs will receive a pdf version to help reduce our impact on the environment.

Please don't forget the AGM dinner in August. This is always a great night and one not to miss. All details are in the newsletter and if you have any queries please call.

See you on the next trip – or at the next meeting.

Ashley Martin
President

Minutes of General Meeting – 2 June 2010

General Meeting June 2010

The meeting was held at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club and was opened at 8.00pm by President Ashley Martin.

Present: There were 31 members present as per the attendance book

Apologies: Maxine Ryan, Lesley Peters, Aline Van Buiten, Karen Griffith, David Bruinsma, Michael & Verylle Rodger, Mark Felton, Jim O'Brien, Steve Pitcher, John Wimetal, Brian Martin

Visitors: Peter Mitchell

Minutes of previous General Meeting

Accepted : Nil
Seconded : Nil

See below. Minutes to be amended and re-issued.

Matters arising:

Bill Harwood raised that emails have been sent to committee and these have not been listed in Correspondence in/out.

Paul indicated that this has been an oversight and will be corrected in future.

Bill stated that there was some correspondence regarding receipts and membership cards. Some members have not had receipts despite correspondence saying that they will get one.

Correspondence in

Overland Cruising - May 2010
CCJC - May 2010
LROCV - April, May 2010
4x4 Action - Autumn 2010
Polaris Racing 4x4 Challenge Flyer
Invoice for Bowling Club Meeting Room for 2010-11 financial year
Email from Bill Harwood regarding Honorary membership

Association demand for outstanding fees and public liability insurance

(Paul and Ashley spoke at length about this - PR to fill in detail)

Correspondence out

Newsletter
Letter relating to Honorary Membership

Treasurers report

Term Deposit	5202.49
Cash	2796.05
Petty Cash	50.00
Money In	83.00
Moneys Out	0.00
Balance	8131.54

Accepted: Bruce
2nd: Tim Axtell

Trip reports
Nil.

Trip coordinators report

The various trip leaders gave a brief overview of the following upcoming trips.

Type	When	Where	Trip Leader
Weekend	Queen's Birthday	Dargo	Anthony Van Buiten
Day Trip	TBD	Marysville	Phil Griffith
Long (Trip Full)	June	Madigan Line - Simpson Desert	Ken Beard
Weekend	Late July	Snow Trip - Mt Skene	Craig Major

Anthony spoke regarding the trip to Collins Hut. He received recently, there is still a bit of a sharp bend to get down the hill to the hut. We will be camping just short of the hut. AVB is going Friday morning. AM is leaving about 3-4.00pm. Tim is leaving about 6.00pm. There will be a few drives organized for the weekend.

Madigan Line trip - trip full.

Bob McKerrow's trip is no longer running.

Phil is running a trip round Marysville, easy to medium on 18th July. Some tracks still closed. Will meet at Lilydale Macca's and finish the day at Marysville Bakery.

Guest Speaker

Sue from High Country Huts Association presented to the club. PR to add detail.

Event Coordinators Report

AGM Dinner - Pavilion, Dandenong, Sat 14th August 2010 hopefully in the Private Room. Confirmation will be in the next Newsletter.

Trip form to come. Names please, it helps.

Association Report

Insurance - spoke about earlier. We will clarify and communicate to the membership before end of the month. We will investigate other options as well e.g. CAMS and the insurance they use.

General business

Murray - went out by himself without letting anyone know where he was going. He got stuck spent 10 hours recovering plus a night out. Highlights need to make sure someone knows where you are going. Please keep this in mind and be safe.

Renewal letters going out - within the next week. Due by August for AGM elections.

Honorary membership - Ashley explained communications between he and Bill. We will honour 25 year memberships however we don't think we will be able to afford to subsidise future honorary members and therefore they would be liable for the assoc and insurance fees. We need to change constitution to recognize this and this needs legal advice and 2/3 majority vote by members to be passed in. We will try to get this to Aug 2010 AGM but may not happen till 2011 AGM. Past committees have turned this down because of the financial position. We need to make sure that we cover this properly and leave a manageable legacy for future committees.

Other Business

Snow Trip - Nick asked if one was being run. Ashley said

yes Craig will run this up to Mt Skene.

Committee - President and Secretary will be standing down. We will be looking for people to fill these roles.

Trip Leader Course - Catherine asked if there will be another Trip Leader Course. Bruce will look into it and if we get the numbers we will run one.

MT Skene form - 10-14 days is not realistic. This needs to be brought up with the association. Committee will look into this. Bruce will raise on the forum

Raffle

No raffle this month.

Meeting Closed: 10.25pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th July at the Bowling Club Rooms, Noble Park Football Club.



CLUB MERCHANDISE For Sale

(Revised Price List)

Club Polo Shirts	\$28.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece ½ Zip Jumper	\$38.00 ea
Club Polar Fleece Full Zip Jacket	\$48.00 ea
Club Sleeveless Reversible Vest	\$44.00 ea
Club Caps	\$15.00 ea
Club Bucket Hat	\$16.00 ea
Club Wide Brim Hat	\$18.00 ea
Club Beanie	\$12.00 ea
VFWDC Sticker (long)	\$ 6.00 ea

We encourage all members to purchase a Club Polo Shirt.

Email your order to committee@vfwdc.com.
Please ensure you advise size required.



2010 AGM DINNER

When: 7.00pm til Midnight
Saturday, 14 August 2010

Where: Dandenong Pavilion
55-61 Princess Hwy
Dandenong

Details: Private room
A la Carte menu
BYO (wine only)
No deposit required, but we do
need to confirm numbers ASAP

Contact: Ashley Marlin
0438 600 904



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John Partridge
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CLUB CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2010				
July	Wednesday 7 th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	25 th	Day Trip—Marysville area	Phil Griffith	0419 865 472
August	Wednesday 4 th	General Meeting	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904
	13 th —15 th	Dargo Trip	Tim Axtel	0414848753
	28 th	Toolangi	Ashley Martin	0438 600 904

UPCOMING TRIPS

DESTINATION	Dargo Area
LEADER	Tim Axtell 0414848753
DATE	13/8/10—15/8/10
MEETING PLACE	Longwarry servo 4pm Friday ,or camp ground 8 am Saturday
GRADE (Wet/Dry)	Medium / Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	To have a good medium level Drive on the Saturday and have a look around on the Sunday. Intend Camping at Collins Hut Friday and somewhere else Saturday Night
VEHICLE LIMITS	3 — 8
LAST FUEL	Sale or maybe Dargo on Sunday
DISTANCE BETWEEN SUPPLIES	Probably about 200kms of off road driving
EQUIPMENT	Full Recovery gear Swag or Tent All food water and warm clothing
MAPS REQUIRED	Dargo Wonnangatta Rooftops
RADIO UHF	12

DESTINATION	Marysville Area
LEADER/ CONTACT NO.	Phil Griffith 0419 865 472
DATE	Sunday 25th July (Note new date)
MEETING	TBA
GRADE	Easy / Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS	An easy drive around Marysville area with an opportunity to get out and go for a walk and look around. An easy family day.
VEHICLE LIMITS	
APPROX KMS	
FUEL	
EQUIPMENT RE- QUIRED	Basic Recovery gear, Warm Clothes BYO Lunch.
MAPS REQUIRED	Rooftop's "Maysville—Lake Eildon"
RADIO CHANNEL	12

DESTINATION	Licola or Mt Selma
LEADER	Craig Major Mob:
DATE	Late July Early August
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS <p>With winter returning to old time conditions it will be a good snow season and a great annual snow trip. Mount Skene is the destination this year but we have to organise permits so numbers will be required ASAP.</p> <p>Camping will be at 12 Mile Reserve out of Jamieson, this is an easy access camping site suitable for trailers and no 4WD driving is required. A departure place and time which will be finalised for the next newsletter.</p> <p>Saturday we will drive in search for snow. We will past through Jamieson and make our way to Mt Skene where snow is almost guaranteed. Depending on time lunch will be at Mt Skene where everyone can play in the white fluffy stuff. If time permits a drive around the area in the afternoon and then back to camp to warm up around the fire. Bring the kids along.</p> <p>Sunday will be a leisurely pack up and then back to Melbourne.</p>	
VEHICLE LIMITS	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
APPROX KMS	150
LAST FUEL	Mansfield
EQUIPMENT	Basic recovery equipment/Warm clothes essential

DESTI	TOOLANGI
LEADER	Ashley Martin Mob: 0438 600 904
DATE	Saturday 28 th August
MEETING	Lilydale Macas 8.30am
GRADE	WET: Medium DRY: Easy-Medium
TRIP ACTIVITY DETAILS <p>The Club is yet to visit the area since the fires past through last year so it will be a mystery to what tracks are accessible. This will be a casual day to explore the area but there may be some U turns required (yes I hear you ask so what's different to my other trips) so patience will be required. This is not intended to be a difficult trip but will involve a few medium tracks and if wet will be greasy.</p>	
VEHICLES	MINIMUM: 3 MAXIMUM: 10
KMS	50
LAST FUEL	PETROL: N/A DIESEL: N/A
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	Basic recovery equipment Wet weather gear and warm clothing



Wonnangatta River Dargo/Collins Hut 11-14 June

Participants:

Anthony, Aline, Riley & Connor	Hilux
David, Carolyn & Samuel	Navara
Owen & Joy	80 series
Tim, Donna, Travis & Charlotte	80 series
Chris & Merrilyn	80 series
Ashley	GU coil cab

Friday (by Riley and Anthony)

We were fortunate enough to have organized to have the day off so we could enjoy an extended long weekend. We left mid- morning and met with Chris and Merrilyn at BP Longwarry.



We had a couple of stops for fuel and food and arrived at camp around 4pm. It started to rain just as we finished setting up our tents. I was going to get some firewood but thought that I would wait for the rain to cease. We heard a bit of a crackle on the radio and shortly after David and his family drove into camp. Chris and I went off to collect firewood while David set up camp. We came back and dropped off the load for David and Aline to get the fire started and then collected another load. By the time we came back everyone was enjoying the warmth of the fire.

Owen and Joy came next and radioed in from the top of the hill to ensure they were in the correct place. I went for a quick drive to escort them in. We had dinner, sent the kids to bed and awaited the arrival of the other club members. Later in the evening Ashley along with Tim and Family arrived. The rain had stopped by then but Ashley was happy to use the gazebo that I had set up to unroll his swag under.

Saturday AM (by David Bruinsma)

We woke to a wet campsite on Saturday morning due to some decent rain we had in the early dark hours of the morning. The camp fire was stubborn, but Owen managed to coax it into life so we had somewhere to meet with our early coffees in hand. People stumbled out of their sleeping shelters between 7am and 8:30am - our camp leader being one of the last to surface.



We knew that this morning would not be an early start, due to some late arrivals the night before, so Tim and Donna finished setting up with the addition of the awning to their borrowed camper. Finally after everyone had their coffee, breakfast and generally woke up - I think we left about 10:30am (ish) for our first 4wd adventure of the weekend.



Leaving our campsite up the short track from Collins hut, we joined the main road and headed north west to King-swell Bridge, taking a right hand turn along the river we then found Conway Track. Most had let down their tyres to around 25psi, and half way up I had to stop to do likewise (I'm a quick learner now) Up we went to the top just to head back down again via Randalls track back to the Crooked River rd. Great warm up tracks to get us going. Along the Crooked River rd which we had to ford a couple of times we ended up at Talbotville for a picnic lunch and the 5 kids burnt off some energy chasing each other around. Then Michael and Sally, along with family and friends found us as we were packing up getting ready to leave.

Following our lunch break our little convoy of 6 vehicles took off up the McMillan Rd heading up towards Grant - arriving at Grant, Anthony and Ashley conferred about a little mine that they had been to previously (unmarked on the maps) so we did a U-turn back down a little way to the side track which took us to a small picnic area. Anthony scouted ahead and radioed back that there was not much room for parking, so Ashley parked his 4wd and jumped in with us for the short drive to the mine. The kids were out of the cars so quickly with torch's in hand ready to explore - with the dad's scrambling to follow them in. I was one of the last to enter with young Samuel, with the torch dutifully pointing to the ground I quickly realised that the top of the tunnel was not very high at sometimes less than 6 foot (ouch). I learned to periodically check the height levels and duck. Once the tunnel was explored, 4 of the 5 kids went back in - with Anthony's help.



After that exploration was done and dusted, we proceeded back to the picnic area which Ashley decided to get some exercise by walking (and sometimes jogging) the short distance back to his car. He quickly ran past the mud holes, so we could not spray him with mud as we past him. (doh!)



Back to McMillan Rd heading south east to Dargo High Plains rd, and back through Dargo on the way back to camp. Some of the vehicles stopped for food, fuel, toilets etc - whilst I continued back to camp with Owen and

Sue in pursuit so I could light the coals in the Spit for the nights roasting. By the time the other adventurers had returned, the coals were lit, and the fire was going - so most the blokes went off to find plenty of fire wood for the long night around the fire. With 2 chain saw's going, we had Anthony's ute full in next to no time.



Back around the fire, we ended up with 3 small roasts on the spit (one Beef, and two Pork) a lovely looking Lamb in a camp oven next to the fire as well as another camp oven with Potatoes were some of the lovely aroma's greeting us for the next two hours. Suffice to say, not much was left over and I believe everyone was well and truly stuffed (oops, I mean satisfied). Bed time for kids was about 7:30, and the adults started drifting off from about 10:30, with others staying up until the wee hours of the morning.

And so, the first full day ended - and all had enjoyed themselves immensely.

Sunday (by Chris and Merrilyn)

Today is Sunday 13th June and we Chris and Merrilyn have the pleasure of doing the trip report for the day. After an early rise out of bed to a quiet and fresh morning and after some beacon and eggs, we all headed out of camp (5 4wds) around 10am. Our first track was "Rock of Gibraltar" which lead into our next track "Scrubby Creek Track" every thing was going fine and I even got a head nod from the hunter that was leaning against the tree with his big gun.

While still heading down our track we then came upon a nice wide river with a fair amount of current in it, it seemed. Every one stopped and got out and we all had a discussion on which was the best way to navigate and get across. Tim had the joy of going across and back twice (Lucky Boy). Anthony and Ashley were concerned about David making it so with we decided to use a snap strap hooked up to Ashley 4wd and some powerful driving skills David and family were pulled across safely. We then headed up "Junction Spur Track". There were a couple more puddle crossing you could call with a few muddy spots. We had a steep climb up which was quite rocky. Tim at one stage had to pull up as they were trying to

catch the kids snacks that were rolling around everywhere as we got higher the temperature was dropping and getting muddier the more we climbed. Whoo hoo. Yes we had to stop we hit the snow that was sparingly scattered. All the kids were so excited as it was the first lot we had seen. Yes now they all have freezing hands. Back in the warmth of our vehicles and now heading up "Castle Hill Track". You could feel how much the temperature had dropped rapidly as we were climbing. As we were heading up Anthony pointed out that over on our right we could view Mt Valencia. We were 1403 mtrs about sea level and there was snow everywhere. Yes we have all reached the Pinnacles, first thing on the agenda was lunch, then we went for a nice walk up to the fire tower. The views were magnificent. When we got back to the car park Ashley said his goodbyes and departed from here and headed home. We then headed for "Billy Goats Bluff" Not far down the hill we stopped for a smoko as we had to wait for 9 4wds coming up slowly. On this track we went down rocky sections humpy doos sections and bumpy ones. We got to the heli pad then preceded down and yes we had to put the sunglasses on and we saw dust. They say we have four seasons in 1 day. Then we headed back to camp. Owen /Joy didn't come on the drive but had a day of hiking for 5 hours. When got back to camp David/Chris got the chainsaws going while Owen stacked the wood well done guys. We had enough for 3 days. With the kids and the adults fed and the kids in bed it was for a nice night around the fire and some good conversations and drinks. Early night by most it was a very long day but it was a fantastic weekend had by all. Thanks to Anthony and family for a great weekend.



Monday (by Riley and Anthony)

Owen and Joy were the quickest to pack up and said their goodbyes before heading home. The rest of us took a bit longer leaving at about 11am. We aired up at the top of the hill and then continued through to Stratford. We had lunch near the bridge so the kids could play on the playground. From there we headed home to lots of clothes to wash and cars to clean.

Thanks all to contributing to a great weekend.